

HOLIDAY ISSUE <sup>30.7</sup>

di a FOG



# GBC celebrates holidays p.8-9

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**SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS** p.6

Our new by-laws approved p.3

Festive Movie Guide p.10

Great Holiday Recipes p.3, p.8

Our own movie star! p.10

a view from the castle p. 7

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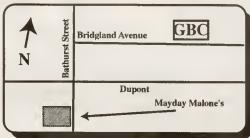
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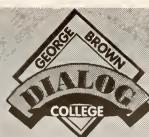
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# Common traditions

## The Winter Solstice — Why it really sucks!

by Boni

I sat over at the "Coffee Time" across from the campus sipping my coffee and reflecting morosely when over walked a woman from my course who said, "How come you look so miserable?" "Well," I replied, "I have to write a Christmas article for the school newspaper and I HATE Christmas!" I expected her to have the same reaction most people do. In this society broadcasting that you hate Christmas is akin to publicly admitting that you light fluffy kittens on fire for sport. "Me too, everybody dies!" "Whoohoo!" I whooped, "You too? A kindred soul!" Along came a third woman. "What do you two look so pensive about?" "We hate Christmas," we responded in unison. "Me, too!" she gasped.

After that seditious conversation, I know there must be many more folks out there with the same opinion we have. If nothing else, I'm not alone, although I'm sure there are various reasons why so many of us loathe it. I'll just cover some of my own personal peeves. For those of you who love it, maybe you'll wind up with a little understanding of why some of us believe that December should be permanently eradicated from the calendar year. Maybe some of you can answer the deep philosophical questions that I have posed

below.

The second lady was right. Everyt'ing seems to die between December and January 2nd. The only good poi least I haven't had to take time off w attend the funerals. I'm sure if I owe goldfish, some fool kid would Christmas cake in the tank and I'd floating belly-up on Christmas mo. With a gerbil, it would go some exotic rodent disease that no one evet stationed in the wilds of outer Mo had ever heard of; I know I would thousands of dollars in airfare, medi and the latest laser technology on a dollar pet—only to find myself waving into the great void by Boxing Day.

The people who invented Christmas realized that timing is everything. Dec is snowy, cold and windy. This does promote cheerfulness amongst those who choose to shop for presents. Snow and wind causes shoppers to be cranky in turn makes store clerks cr. Consequently, I go in to the store for a discount peanut butter and have to deal a cashier who exudes all the char Cleopatra's asp. This has a tendency to exacerbate my already existing gloom.

My sister brought up a good point. rich people have the means to c

everything in December. Poor folks need to get their income tax back first, so they can afford to purchase toys that cost more than the down payment on one's first house. I think the government and retailers should seriously consider moving Christmas to March for those of us who have an income under 100K yearly. The stores would be less crowded and we would have more cash. Anybody want to start a petition?

Does anyone out there know what's with the tacky lawn ornaments? It's enough to make Picasso wish he had been born blind. If pink flamingos in the summertime weren't enough to make me retch, right after Halloween I get an eyeful of cheap plastic nativity scenes. These come complete with a peroxide-blond Madonna, pigmentally-challenged Joseph, imbecile grinning wise men and miserable plastic sheep. They're proliferating everywhere. I think they procreate in people's closets during the off-season and now the fools who bought 'em in the first place are palming the descendants off as presents to all of their relatives. Couldn't someone put up Snow White and the seven dwarfs for a change? Has it ever occurred to anybody that red and green are not a subtle, tasteful colour combination?

The standard 5-course Christmas dinner may elevate men to the dizzying heights of gastronomic delight but it sure doesn't excite me to a tidal wave of orgasmic ecstasy. As Roseanne Barr so appropriately stated, "Who wants to get up at five o'clock in the morning to shave bread crumbs up a dead bird's ass?" It takes 12 hours to prepare a meal that takes all of ten minutes for a room full of gluttons to inhale. After that less-than-peak experience, usually the women are fobbed off to do dishes in the kitchen while the guys watch football, belch and snore. No matter how liberated you think your relationship is, just WATCH who first offers genuine help by grabbing the tea towels and scruffies. From the first of December, women I respect for breaking the glass ceiling battling the icons of the business world instinctively metamorphosize into Hazel-the-Housemaid. It's enough to make the most tolerant feminist want to impale herself on her N.O.W. button.

And who started this turkey crap anyway? Charles Dickens wrote about a Christmas GOOSE if anybody in Hollywood was ever literate enough to actually read the book. So what happened there? Why are we fighting

our way through crowded grocery stores at the last moment to pay top dollar for farm-bred flightless birds? With the amount of Canada geese defecating all over the boardwalk, I have no idea why we don't wring their hideous necks and save ourselves a wagon load of cash, never mind the tax break due to "Parks & Rec" no longer being required to shovel goose guano. If we could legally practice some personal ecological species thinning at a beach that has enough poultry milling around to feed the entire population of Bolivia, we could eliminate food banks.

I despise New Year's Eve even more than Christmas if that's possible. I'd rather have my teeth drilled without freezing than go to a New Year's party—which either says much for today's dental profession or shows my readers just how much joy I derive from this particular celebration. I have personally termed New Year's, "The Night of the Liquid Dread". People who appear reasonably sane all year turn into caricatures of B-movie monsters at the stroke of 12. What is so stimulating about imbibing alcoholic beverages, feeling up the hostess' Afghan, then heaving your guts out on the hors d'oeuvre tray? I somehow fail to comprehend why over half of the nation chooses to spend the first day of a perfectly interesting new year hugging porcelain fixtures all morning then gulping analgesic all afternoon. Regarding the previous, can someone explain to me what it is that I am not grasping?

Of course after all the brouhaha that I wish I missed, we all have to go back to work and/or school at the beginning of January. OHMYGOD! THAT'S EVEN WORSE!!! Let's go back on holidays...

### ON A SERIOUS NOTE:

I remember talking to a homeless man last Christmas who said, "At Christmas, I can get more free meals than anyone could eat. The rest of the year, nobody cares if I starve to death." It is all well and fine to treat each other well over the holidays. However, if you don't translate that into action the rest of the year, a few weeks aren't going to make much of a difference. Please, learn to treat each other with respect, kindness and honour ALL year. Make THAT your New Year's Eve resolution and maybe in the next millennium, we will really have something to celebrate....

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

home.) Scandinavians still have a parade of virgins carrying crowns of candles on their

**Santa Claus.** The Santa we know in North America is actually the invention of the Coca Cola Company in the late 19th century. In Europe in years past, there was Father Christmas. He was much slimmer than Santa Claus and did not live at the North Pole. He is based on St. Nicholas, a Turkish saint from the fourth century who secretly gave money to poor families.

The tradition states that once upon a time he dropped the money down the chimney, and it fell into the children's stockings. Get figure!

**Advent.** Four weeks before Christmas, most Christians are waiting for the coming of the Messiah. A wreath of leaves is made and four candles are put on the perimeter. On the Sunday of each week of Advent a candle is lit. Finally, a white centre candle is lit to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th.

**Boxing Day.** The day following Christmas Day is Boxing Day. This comes from English tradition of churches opening their "alms boxes" on the day after Christmas and the priest distributing the contents. It was also a day off for domestic workers who served during the Christmas feasts.

**Mistletoe.** 200 years before Christ's birth, Druids would gather sprigs of this yellow-green plant to ensure good fortune. It was banned by the Roman church for years because of its' pagan connection.

heads on St. Lucy day, December 13th. Singing carols These popular hymns of a joyful nature date back to 15th century England. They may have been adapted from pagan folksongs.







# cheapDATE

## Christmas Records

by George Vajna  
Entertainment Editor

### NSYNC - Home For Christmas

I hate to say it, but NSYNC delivered the best Christmas album out of the bunch. "Under My Tree" and "I Guess It's Christmas time" are actually good songs. The rest is fairly schmaltzy, but that is what you would expect from NSYNC.

GRADE: B-

### TOP 5 CHRISTMAS ALBUMS

There are many great Christmas albums out there. These are my favorite.

1. BONNIE M - Christmas Album
2. ELVIS PRESLEY - If Every Day Was Like Christmas
3. WILLIE NELSON - Pretty Paper
4. PHIL SPECTOR - Christmas Gift For You
- 5.(tie)

HAPPY XMAS (War Is Over) - John Lennon &

LITTLE DRUMMER BOY - Bing Crosby and David Bowie

### BOTTOM 5 CHRISTMAS ALBUMS

There are many bad Christmas albums out there, and these are my least favorite. Anyone remember "This One's For The Children" by NKOTB? Didn't think so.

1. NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK - Merry, Merry Christmas
2. BARRY MANILOW - Because It's Christmas
3. AIR SUPPLY - The Christmas Album
4. CELINE DION -
5. BOYZ II MEN - Christmas Interoperations

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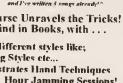
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## WWF Wrestling Talk

by George Vajna, Entertainment Editor

hey there "hardcore" wrestling fans! We got a lot of great news for you so before I get to the news if you have any questions e-mail [ent.dialog@mailexcite.com](mailto:ent.dialog@mailexcite.com), and by the way, I got two words for ya: SUCK IT!

In the WWF: A rumored Rock Bottom match will see either Al Snow vs. Bossman - Hardcore Title, HHH/X-pac vs. Shamrock/Bossman, X-pac vs. someone on Team Corporate, or Kane vs. Bossman.... HHH is still injured and wouldn't be able to wrestle for another 3-4 weeks... rumors are floating around that after Mark Henry saved Chyna on their date, Chyna may be leaving DX and joining the team of D-Lo and Mark Henry. More as things develop... expect to see a commercial for Wrestlemania XVI during the Superbowl... the WWF is planning two same sex relationships between Scott Taylor and Brian Christopher (Too Much) and Marlena and Jacky... and finally the WWF have scored their biggest victory from WCW by obtaining the Giant and the British Bulldog. Welcome

back Davey Boy Smith... and finally Shawn Michaels has two herniated disks in his back and won't be coming back for at least another few months.

In WCW news: (Stone Cold) Goldberg will make his on screen debut opposite Jean Claude Van Damme in "Unfinished Soldiers II"... with Scott Steiner being the newest leader of NWO Hollywood, could he be bringing in a new (or should I say old) member. Maybe someone like Savage... Hogan may make his retirement speech during the Jan. 4 Nitro. Hogan still has a 2 year contract with WCW so expect to see him return in 6-7 months as a face good guy... A rumored match for Starcade is DDP/Malone vs. Bret Hart???. I wonder who Bret's mystery partner is going to be? It can't be Dennis Rodman because he is currently suing WCW for money they owe him. Was that Charles Barkley I just saw walking out of WCW's office? That's all for this month. Happy holidays and I'll see you in the next issue!

## Soundguide CD Give-Away

### Contest Rules

1. Contest is open to George Brown students, at all 4 campuses.
2. Only one entry per student. Multiple entries will be disqualified.
3. Enter the contest in one of two ways:
  - (i) submit your completed entry form either to the Dialog office, St James Campus, Room 159A; or any campus Student Association (SA) office;
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4. Entry forms for this issue's Give-Away must be received by December 14, 1998 at Noon.
5. All winners' names for this issue's contest will be published in the Dialog's Night Life issue, available in early January 1999.
6. All prizes are to be claimed from the Dialog office, St James Campus.

## CD Give-Away Entry Form

These are the 4 CDs we are giving away this issue. The contest rules are the same, except students

should circle the CD that they want.

- CD: TQ - They Never Saw Me Coming
- CD: Gangsta Boo - Inquiring Minds
- CD: Heltah Skeltah - Magnum Force
- CD: Cypress Hill - IV

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Christmas season is here again with another dozen or so Christmas albums. Four out of the five CDs reviewed here featured terrible covers of "The Christmas Song." Nat King Cole must be rolling in his grave.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - A Christmas to Remember

The mood "I Just Don't Seem Like Christmas" by Ian Moore is good and "Rudolf, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" by the Smitherens is fun. The rest of the songs are fairly unmemorable throwaways from mostly unknown artists. It may say a Christmas to Remember, but it will be more like a Christmas you'll forget.

GRADE: C

CELINE DION -  
These Are Special Times

Wow, with songs like "Blue Christmas," "Ave Maria," "Feliz Navidad" and "Happy Xmas (War is over)," one would think there must be something good here right? Wrong.

GRADE: D

BABYFACE -  
Christmas With Babyface

This is an embarrassingly bland album by Babyface. His covers of standards are dreadful, and his static delivery almost ruins all the songs. The one new song, "You Were There" isn't all that new (it is on the Simon Birch Soundtrack). The upbeat Sleigh Ride is the only appealing track.

GRADE: D+

JERMAINE DUPRIE -  
12 Soulful Nights Of Christmas

Jermaine Dupree handpicked the songs that appear on this collection. The cover of the Temptations' "Someday at Christmas" by Voices of Soul is okay, but the rest of the album stinks. Shame on you Jermaine!

GRADE: D+

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## Stranded

by Sydney B. Smith

Upon the step of hard times keep  
The old man gabs inside  
The youthful times  
Of nursery rhymes  
Fulfilled a dream talk the talk  
To quicken weary minds  
And freeze their tears  
With overseer's eyes  
Elected choice  
Is time  
Upon the step of misery  
There sleeps the face of luck  
Upon a winter sidewalk strands  
The hand bad fortune struck  
There sleeps the place  
Of once the child  
Now age has crept inside  
To boil life with hardened strife  
Cold moon will soon abide  
Satans ice is paradise  
Old winters cold has froze  
Old men in old Toronto freeze  
In ways  
Nobody chose

## Who am I?

by Erdel John Malate

I am a spiritual being molded in the image of God; a human being made of body and mind,

I am a fearful warrior both the brave fighter and the mad destroyer,

I am a dreamer who gaze upon the stars, hoping one day to fulfill his dreams,

I am like a light in the raining night I

ierce through the dark and its obstacles, I seek the knowledge and wisdom of life and look beyond the horizon, beyond the dark cave,

I am one unique individual among millions, upon one planet, within one universe,

I am me, but who are we?

Aren't we brought up to suffer and then die, to find a meaning in life and have a "why",

Aren't we programmed to obey each command, re-constructed to follow all sort of demands?

Aren't we the ones who value peace and harmony, to care for those in need with open arms?

Or are we the ones who value power and money, to kill our brothers and sisters with military arms,

Isn't there a boundary between good and evil?

What is the meaning?

Do we possess these qualities as people?

What does it take to be a being?

## Horror

by Andrew Chesswell

I went to sleep last night and you were there. When I awoke you were gone. The last time this happened to me I had to take actions that later proved to be without cause. Since there is only one bed, I suggest that we use it in shifts. I'll take the early watch and when you get in, I'll move to the bath tub. We are going to have to arrange our times better. By the way...you snore.

You are going to have to start knocking. Your parents need their privacy and barging in can prove to be embarrassing. Know your limits. Imagine how you would feel if they came into your room when you were rolling around with your friend. Nothing stifles nookie more than being caught. You accuse me of sending secret messages. How secret can they be if ten thousand people read them? Why does the name Peter ring a bell? I've got more than enough on my mind this week, so having Peter pop in can be most disconcerting. Do you know Peter? Is he a redhead?

Yes school can be boring. Try showing up for the 8 am classes and asking questions when appropriate. If you have a problem with your Prof., talk to them before going elsewhere. Don't bad mouth people. Never, ever use the prejudice trip on ANYONE. Have a great time, you'll see these times as the "golden years".

You have been ignoring that person. Is it because you are so attracted to them that it scares you? I see your daydreams about them and they are triple X rated. You don't even know if they want to do those things with them. Go over to them, get close look them in the eyes, and let it go.

So you had too much at the boat cruise. If you wake up every morning with a hangover, you have a problem the size of a magnum of champagne. Everything done to excess can damage you. Get your diet straight first. Keep off the saturated fats. Don't drink until after supper and never have more than three.

Put out that cigarette! It doesn't make you look glamourous and pretty soon that skin around your eyes will make you look ten years older. If you want a bad habit, I personally think you should start picking your nose. Nose picking never killed anyone.

Have you ever kissed anyone upside down? Try it. If you lay on the floor or a best approach your partner from the top of their head. Wet kisses are best and watch what you are doing with your hands. A real turn on eh?

## A brief encounter

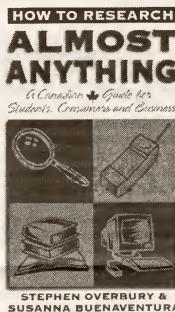
by Dian Gren

It was a cold winter's day when angel and I met. But it wasn't your typical introduction. To this day, I don't know if she was married or had any kids. I don't know what she did with her life, or if she was happy. But the one thing I am sure of her life was tragically cut short by an automobile accident. I remember as if it were yesterday; the fire truck, police cars and ambulance as it sped away from Lansdowne station. I remember asking what had happened. Someone spoke of a woman running for and slipping under the bus. She died instantly at the scene. If only the bus hadn't been there. If only she wasn't in such a hurry. The accident happened so quickly, there wasn't enough time for anyone to react and pull her free. Many years have passed and still I think of her and what would have been. I do not know angel's real name, but she will however be a part of one, the faceless ghost within.

## Research Guide for Beginners

**How to Research Almost Anything: A Canadian Guide for Students, Consumers and Business.** By Stephen Overbury and Susanna Buenaventura. Published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, 1998. 208 pages. \$19.95 plus GST.

Review by Marie Battaglia



We live in an age of information, where we trade facts and figures, and interpret them too. In *How to Research Almost Anything*, Stephen Overbury and Susanna Buenaventura make the case that getting the facts is an important skill for everyone - not only for students.

Overbury writes about his experience with an American bank that made a mistake with his deposit. The mistake caused Overbury to write a bad cheque. The bad cheque caused him all sorts of trouble: not only money, but also time and reputation. The bank refused to give him his money and reverse their non-sufficient funds (NSF) fee. Overbury at first felt helpless, but writes that he "had faith in the power of information." He telephoned the legal department of his Canadian bank to find out about banking regulations in the United States. Eventually he contacted the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), an agency of the United States Department of the Treasury. The OCC rates banks. The OCC was the right place to report what had happened to him. After he contacted the OCC, the bank could not fix his problem fast enough.

*How to Research Almost Anything* is full of stories like this. The first half, *Learn from the Experts*, devotes thirteen chapters to thirteen professionals who solve problems for themselves and other people. Among them are librarians, scientists, genealogists, police interrogators, lawyers, journalists, and private investigators. They tell about uncovering hidden assets, missing persons, family relationships, and political scandals. The stories are brief, full of useful tips, and all of them have something to say about getting to the truth of a matter, and using information well.

Although, on the surface, this section appeals directly to journalism students, it shows how both individual need and the public good are served by research. The approach is entertaining, and the message is a good one: knowing how to get information pays off.

The second half, *Where the Experts Get Their Information*, clearly and simply explains how to find information. This is where the authors excel. In addition to finding sources in libraries and on the Internet, Overbury and Buenaventura explain the structure of the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, and the court system in Canada. Understanding the different jurisdictions is an important first step in obtaining all types of official and public information. These sources include voters' lists, tax assessment rolls, land registry files, and so on.

Research, more than anything else, is a social activity. Successful researchers are prepared, persistent, and polite. Regardless of the type of information you need to know who to ask, what to ask, and how to ask. Choice of words, tone of voice, and physical appearance influence results. As journalist John Zaritsky states "you can get a lot of information out of people as long as you don't seem to have any bad reason for wanting it."

How to Research Almost Anything has been published in two earlier editions under the title *Finding Canadian Facts* (1985 and 1989). This updated third edition is a worthwhile reference for beginners—students included—who need to conduct solid research from official sources.



## diaCYCLE

by Jake the Biker

**S**orry I missed you guys for the Health and Fitness Issue. I'd promised I'd have something about biking, but I got busy with assignments, and well, you know the story. It's December and look on the street. People are still biking, bless them. It takes a good skiffle of snow to shut down the bikers.

Lots of stuff has gone down since my last column so I won't even try to catch you up. There are a few questions that should be answered and a few points to be made.

Let's start with a few safety issues. I avoid the trinity. The big three are TTC vehicles, trucks and taxis. If you check the fatality list over the past few years you will see most of them involved one of the three. Buses can't see you, you are too low. Streetcars are better in that you know exactly where they will be traveling, but sometimes the lanes end and you end up on tracks. I have wide tires, but streetcar tracks can be dangerous especially when wet. When it comes to trucks, I avoid them at all costs. I bike on streets that exclude them, I don't go on highways and I always keep an eye out. Those drivers keep horrible hours so they are probably tired and often only too willing to take a chance with your life. If they can over you it is

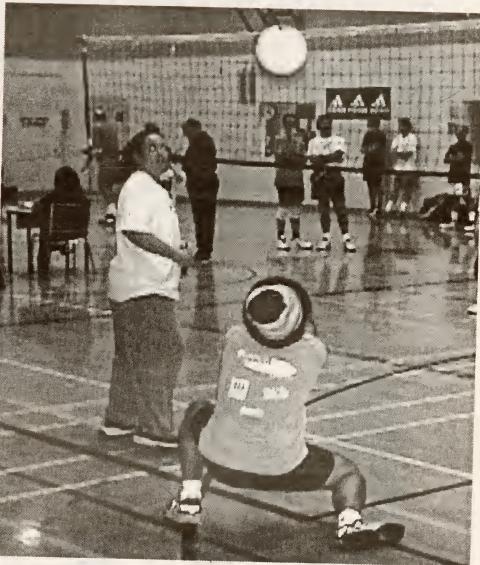
unlikely they would know it or even care.

Taxis are another thing. The drivers just don't care about human life. They stop over bike lanes, they drive you around corners, they are just the worst drivers in the city. If you complain to one, you are just as likely to be threatened with a tire iron.

While we are bitching, I'd like to cover a few other things. First most car drivers have about as much grey matter as Homer Simpson's doughnut. The ones who come down from the suburbs are even worse because they have never seen anyone on a bicycle cause it's a vast wasteland of strip malls up there and everyone's got a Bronco.

Just in case you are a pedestrian and think you're not going to come in for criticism; forget it! Although your not as lethal as a car you are about as dangerous. I've had hand poked in my face, been spit at and had cigarettes thrown at me. So when your walking down the sidewalk, look before you stick out your hand to cross the road, spit or throw that smoke. There maybe that silent menace the bicyclist barreling down on you!

So, you probably think that all I do is complain. I'd like someone else to write the bike column so if you can put together 500 words e-mail them to [jake.dialog@mailexcite.com](mailto:jake.dialog@mailexcite.com).



## Fraud Alert

Source:Toronto Police Service 13 Division — Community Update

Millions of Canadians buy lottery tickets every week in the hope that they are lucky enough to win the 'big prize. We all dream of the good life, a happy retirement, etc.

Unfortunately we all need to be cautious because there are scam artists who will take advantage of our hopes and dreams.

Scams often occur over the phone, by junk mail and even personally addressed mail. Many scams specifically target seniors.

specifically target seniors. The scams are designed for multiple hits or in other words, they will try you again and again until they are successful. Here are just a few examples.

enter a contest? Are you lucky enough, out of millions of people, to have been chosen at random? All you have to do is mail the envelope and a nominal fee to an address in B.C., New York, Germany along with and you will receive details on your prize. The details never come. Yes, you were just scammed.

## Telemarketing Scams

Last, and most dangerous are the many telephone scams. You may get a call from a scam artist telling you won something but to collect it all you have to do is purchase something else. Do not buy into these scams. In other cases the scam artist will identify himself/herself as a bank official requiring your credit card number.

### The “Santa Claus” Scratch and Win

You scratched and, to your amazement, you won \$1,000.00. All you must do is phone a winner's hotline to find out how to collect your prize. This \$19.95 phone call, billed directly on your next phone bill, eventually reveals that you didn't win anything but were scammed.

## Winners Letter

Have you ever received a letter in the mail notifying you that you won money, a TV, a VCR, etc? Did you

requiring your credit card number. In all cases when dealing with an unknown person on the telephone, confirm their credentials prior to conducting ANY transaction.

Play it safe. Know the person you are dealing with. When in doubt, call your local police station before you send money or give your credit card number to any unsolicited mail or a phone caller.

## ON CAMPUS



*Editor's note: We apologize to our readers for not having an elvisLOG in the last two issues. We have received many (always anonymous) complaints. What follows is an almost verbatim account concerning the reasons for the column's absence.*

1 isten, we are really tired here! The editor of this rag claims he hasn't received the last two e-mails. I call bull shit 'cause I've been sending them. He's been using those dick heads at male excite, so I'm not surprised that he can't get America On Line electronic files. Like, is he sending us money or something? We've been writing all this shit since August and we haven't even got a fucking CD! Then he has the nerve to e-mail us that we haven't submitted. Well submit this you weasel!

Elvis@aol.com  
attached file: elvis7.txt

### Day 150

Gees, so what is happening back there in TO? We are in Loa, Utah. Too-Tall thought it might be a good place to go 'cause its AOL backwards. Things got kinda hot in Texas. The state smokes were pissed 'cause we stole the tow truck and were doing pirate towing. We fucked off to Mexico for a while, but we got shit for selling grass to the turistas so we headed back north. We thought Utah might be a good state for a couple of fugitives to hang on in cause the place is full of Mormons. I'm not sure why they call them Mormons, cause they have more wives. They should be called Morwomans.

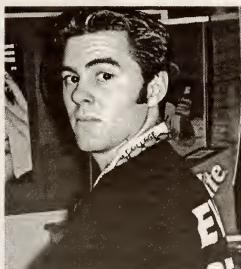
So no one better make jokes about them because they have welcomed us with open arms. Everyone is so pleasant and willing to share what they have. It must be kinda what it's like in heaven. Too-Tall has found a job at a service centre just of the I-15. I've been trying to make a few friends in town. Seems like we don't have too much in common. Like, I'm this city girl. I've been around the block a few times and don't take shit from anyone. So what do I have in common with women who apparently have a different goal in life. Well, I kinda like kids. I should qualify that statement cause I kinda like other peoples kids. (For 10 minutes in a neutral zone).

I was so successful at making friends that I found a position at Bob's Country Diner. All I have to do is smile and write down the numbers the patrons bark out. I then repeat these numbers to the horribly obese man who cooks the food. This sounds like something out of a Russian spy movie cause it goes like this: "table 3 wants a 12 brown, a 6 easy-over, 16, 7, 14 and hold the 27."

Like how do these people digest this stuff? For instance, I was working double shifts last week and the sweaty chef was on. In the middle of things someone at the front of the house let out this god-awful scream. I went running to the table to find out what the fuck was going on.

"Look at it!" he screamed, "I can't eat it. Take it away!" Now, working for Bob is OK, but I know that if someone whips out without paying, it's my ass that is on the cash register. "What is the problem with your succulent prime chop of pork with mash and gravy?" I enquired to the red-faced toad. "It's Elvis!" he retorted in a quiet and hushed tone. I peered into the spot on his plate.

Sitting there was the usual condiments and a perfectly reverse symmetrical set of pork chops. Starting wide and round at the top and slowly narrowing to a rounded point. "It's the king's sideburns!" screamed the goofus. Sure as shit, when I looked at that mass of gelatinous grease, animal flesh and starch I had an epiphany. At this point I picked up the chop and placed it on the side of his head. I suddenly saw what he was referring to. My mind flashed back to the album covers. The 'Viva Las Vegas' days. Holy fuck! It was Elvis's sideburns!

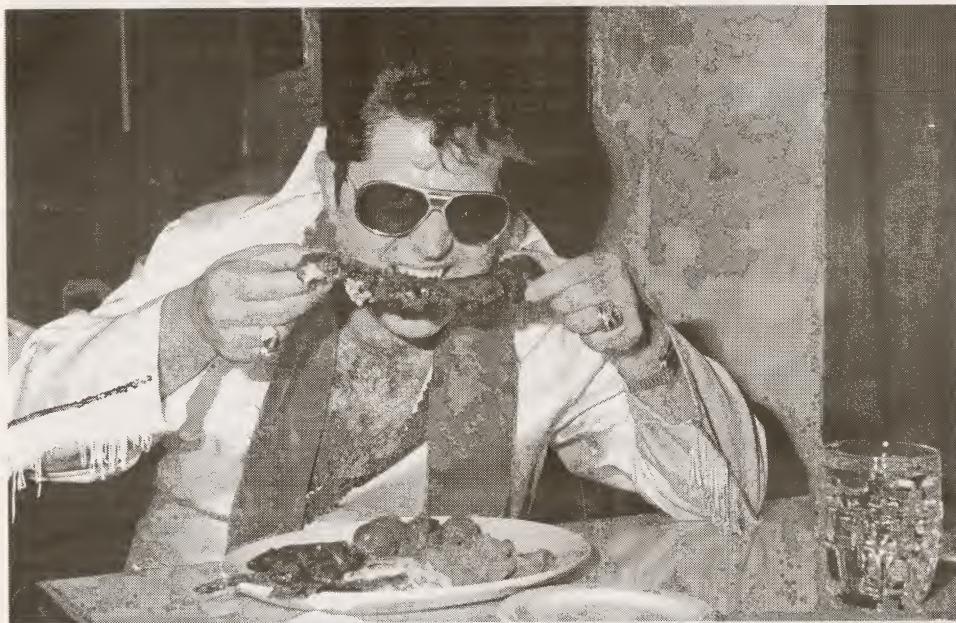


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